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Volume XXIII Number 1

FREE

LIBRARY CONTROVERSY

Hill Protest Wins Changes In Meeting Room Rules

By Judy Baston

Angry protests by Potrero Hill residents following the disclosure that the North American Man/Boy Love Assn. (NAMBLA) had been meeting in the neighborhood branch library's upstairs room have brought about immediate and significant changes in the library system's meeting room policy.

Neighborhood residents did not know the group had been meeting in the area until KRON-TV filmed the seven participants in NAMBLA's January meeting.

It has always been library policy to require all meetings to be open to the public. However there had been no policy requiring that notices be posted about what meetings were taking place in the nine of 26 library branches that have meeting rooms.

Because of this, Hill parent and psychologist Robin Acker charged at a heated Jan. 7 Potrero Branch session, "People in the neighborhood don't have enough information to make an informed decision about whether to keep children away." There had been no complaints until last month about the NAMBLA meetings, Acker stressed, only "because nobody knew about it."

Participants at the Jan. 7 session urged that a list of all meetings taking place in the branch's upstairs room be posted. And at a Hill gathering Jan. 15 with Library Commissioner Dale Carlson and Chief of Branches Neel Parikh, Carlson agreed. "When we revise our meeting room policy, we will make it as easy as possible to monitor each and every meeting that goes on," he said. The community, he stressed, is "the most effective way" of keeping NAMBLA out.

A first draft of the new policy was unveiled at a packed Jan. 21 session of the Library Commission's Finance and Operations Committee. Among the key changes contained in the draft:

- * All meetings shall be publicly noticed in the affected Library facility and in the Main Library at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.
- * The library reserves the right to monitor any meeting held in its facilities to ensure no unlawful activities are occurring on Library premises.
- * Permission may be granted to groups and organizations for multiple meetings over a period not to exceed six months. Renewal applications may be submitted, but prior use of Library meeting rooms shall not entitle applicants to future use.
- * In scheduling the use of meeting rooms, the Library may grant priority first to Library-related groups and second, to neighborhood and community-based groups and organizations from the area served by the particular Library facility.

In addition to the changes contained in the draft released Jan. 21, the meeting room policy to be submitted to the full Library Commission Feb. 4 will also contain language enabling the Library to allocate meeting room space on a systemwide basis, a suggestion made both by Hill resident Leonard Page and by attorney Al Boro, a constitutional law specialist. "Allocating meeting room space on a system-

wide basis gives us a certain measure of flexibility," Carlson told *The View*.

Chief of Branches Parikh told the Jan. 21 session that she was sending out a memo to all branches to have them start posting notices of meetings immediately, even before the new policy was officially adopted.

"A lot of concern was about the lack of knowledge," stressed attorney Boro. "The new policy addresses a number of concerns that were raised."

And Acker, who had been an initiator of the Hill residents' protests, told *The View* the changes are "a reasonable compromise. I think they've tried to be responsive to the community's concerns."

It was clear at the Jan. 7 and 15 sessions that Hill residents' anger had a dual focus: NAMBLA itself and the neighborhood's lack of knowledge that the group was meeting.

Some at the meetings acknowledged the thorny legal questions involved in protecting First Amendment guarantees of the right to assemble and at the same time protecting the welfare of children.

"What is policy and what is law?" asked Joyce Kleiner, the mother of a young son. "I know the First Amendment is law, but where do you have flexibility?" She advised her fellow Hill residents to "make sure you watch the postings. If any group with a similar background meets, I'll be on them like a fly on shit."

And Page, who acknowledged that "this organization may have an absolute legal right to meet," warned, "the next time the NAMBLA meeting is held, if it is held in this room, there's going to be an explosion. The best approach is a meeting place that will not cause an explosion."

But some at that meeting were so incensed at NAMBLA that they disagreed. Weeping as she spoke, Joyce Armstrong said, "I don't care where they meet. They shouldn't meet. They're breaking the law." (Subsequently appearing along with Acker on an NBC network show on the issue, Armstrong stressed that a group that provided support and therapy would be one thing, but if the group is teaching people "how to molest and get away with it, that's against the law.")

Carlson noted that because NAMBLA's meeting room request was two years old and the telephone numbers on the application were no longer valid, the group's permission to meet at the Library had been revoked. No additional NAMBLA meetings have been requested or scheduled, he stressed.

"Now that this collection of scum is out from under its rock, with meetings open to the public, my guess is that these people will seek a non-public meeting space," Carlson predicted.

In the unlikely event NAMBLA were to reapply for a library meeting room, the changes in the new policy would make it possible, for example, to assign space at the library's administration building on Hyde Street near Market, rather than a branch in a residential neighborhood.



Delivering an impassioned plea, this woman was one of many speakers at the Potrero Library Jan. 15 who warned of the dangers of child molestation. Judy Baston photo

Library Debate Spotlights Key Free Speech Questions

By Judy Baston

During last month's heated controversy about the North American Man/Boy Love Assn. (NAMBLA), one of the most frequently-asked questions — on and off Potrero Hill — was: "Why did the library let a group like that use their meeting room in the first place?"

And as the debate on the issue raged, the answer to that question provided a living laboratory of sorts in the Constitutional protections of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly guaranteed in the First Amendment, as well as subsequent court decisions that have interpreted it and have provided the guidelines under which the library operates.

Enacted in 1791, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

And with this in mind, the American Library Assn.'s Library Bill of Rights notes that "Libraries which make exhibit

spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use."

This prohibition against discrimination was most recently underscored in

NEWS ANALYSIS

September, 1989, when a conservative religious women's group in Oxford, Mississippi, was denied use of the city library's meeting room on the grounds that the library banned religious or political meetings. The U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that since the "library auditorium had become a public forum," the library "may not exclude speech on the basis of its content from either a traditional public forum or a forum created by government designation, unless the exclusion is necessary to serve a compelling state interest which cannot be served by less restrictive action."

If the meetings in the library auditor-

(Continued on Page 5)

IN OUR VIEW

Threat to Children

Our community became the focus of an unprecedented amount of attention and energy last month. The attention came from the news media — specifically KRON-TV — and the energy came from outraged Potrero Hill residents. The issue, of course, was the disclosure that the North American Man/Boy Love Assn. (NAMBLA) had been meeting once a month in the Branch Library's upstairs room unbeknownst to the neighborhood.

Because of the energy of Hill parents and others, this controversy over NAMBLA is essentially no longer a Potrero Hill issue. We on *The View* believe the changes in library meeting room policy — posting of meetings, ability to assign meetings system-wide, the ability by librarians and the public to monitor public meetings — will make it impossible for such a group as NAMBLA ever to meet again at this or any neighborhood's branch meeting room.

We also understand how strong and yet how fragile our constitutional protections of free speech and free assembly are, and how they are constantly being tested by that which we find unpopular — and even abhorrent. It is difficult to think of a group of individuals more repellent and dangerous to children's welfare than those who believe young children can give consent to sexual relations — and who act on that belief.

Men like that indeed pose a serious threat to children — and should be the subject of attention and energy. KRON-TV devoted two weeks of coverage to the NAMBLA issue. We won't even try to say whether they were simply acting on their concern for children, or whether a titillating story helped win the battle for viewer allegiance. as local television stations move their news slots to 10 p.m.

We do, however, wish that other pervasive dangers to children merited equally persistent news coverage, and equally enthusiastic outpourings of energy. Could two weeks of media attention have made a difference when then-President Reagan cut the child nutrition budget? Could the detailed level of attention given to the specifics of NAMBLA by KRON shed some light on how Proposition 13 is choking our schools of desperately needed funds for teachers, books, librarians?

These and other threats to our children are still issues on Potrero Hill. Perhaps because they depend on decisions made statewide or nationwide, change seems to be more of an uphill battle. But it must start somewhere. Even if NAMBLA never returns to Potrero Hill, our kids deserve our continued energies — fighting even harder battles on their behalf.

Keep a Close Watch

For many in San Francisco, the City Planning Dept. — and even the Planning Commission — represent a medieval maze that people try to ignore unless something is being built in their backyard.

But perhaps more than with most city departments, Planning decisions reflect major directions for the social fabric of San Francisco. Taken together with the actions of such agencies as the Office of Housing and Community Development, these decisions essentially determine who will be able to afford to live in our city. Will affordable single-family residences be torn down and replaced with expensive multi-unit condos? Will some percentage of affordable units be required when a development is built? Will office builders still be required to contribute funds for housing subsidies?

These questions and others like them are brought into sharp focus as early appointments by Mayor Frank Jordan begin to be made. A new head of the Office of Housing and Community Development who has publicly opposed rent control. The likelihood of a new Planning Commission, as well as a new Planning Director. San Franciscans who work to maintain what little affordable housing there is in this city are already keeping a close watch on these key personnel changes.

But we believe that scrutiny by a few is not enough. Appointments to commissions or city agencies often happen with little fanfare, and new policies are frequently so laden with technicalities that their real impact can escape general notice. Especially when these policies and personnel changes affect housing issues, they bear watching by all of us. *The View* will be paying close attention. We urge all of our readers to do likewise.



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OUR READERS WRITE



Fix King Pool

Editor:

The Martin Luther King Swimming Pool locker area is freezing cold. It has been for years. I urge the Park and Recreation Department to repair it now.

I understand that three years ago it could have been repaired for \$17,000; now it is \$250,000. The longer Park and Rec. waits, the higher the cost.

It is the only pool available for the Bay View, Hunter's Point, Potrero, Bernal Heights and the Mission Districts. (Garfield Pool on Harrison is closed for cleaning.)

I understand Sava Pool is being repaired. Why not Martin Luther King? A cold freezing locker area is discouraging to people.

Roberta Callahan
Pennsylvania Ave.

Lazy Public Policy

Editor:

Your November, 1991 edition perspicaciously recommended a vote against Proposition A. I couldn't agree with you more, and I only regret that I didn't write a ballot argument against Proposition A for the Voter's Handbook. Of course, in your words, "a job should be eliminated only if it is truly unnecessary, not simply because someone retires." Authorizing elimination of a job simply because a city employee retires under Proposition A is akin to allowing the inmates to operate the asylum. It's lazy public policy-making, which bespeaks the paucity of sound fiscal management in City Hall these days.

Quentin L. Kopp
State Senator
(I-San Francisco, San Mateo)

MUNI Incident

Editor:

This last November 9th, I was physically pushed and struck in the face by a MUNI driver on the 48 line, headed east-bound on 20th and Missouri Streets.

This letter is an appeal to anyone on, or close to, the bus who may have witnessed this incident and would be willing to provide testimony (written or otherwise) for an upcoming Muni hearing on this incident. The confidentiality of your name and/or personal identity would certainly be protected.

With a strong and truthful hearing testimony, it is my hope that the involved Muni driver will be prevented from endangering my own, or any other 48-line rider's personal safety in the future. Please write the Potrero View, Box 16, 953 De Haro Street, S.F. 94107 by mid-February if you can help.

A #48 Muni rider

Hail Mary Tax

Editor:

Now that December's Prop. A for school funds has passed, I will be working with the community on a tax reform measure that will not be regressive.

Prop. A was a "Hail Mary." When it sunsets in 17 months, let's have some answered prayers.

Tom Ammiano
SF School Board

Protect Children

Editor:

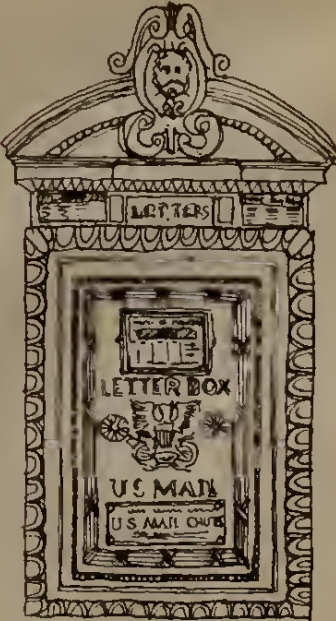
Potrero Hill residents were shocked to learn about the disgusting child molesting, pervers who have been using the Potrero Hill Library as a secluded meeting place, every first Saturday of the month, from 3 to 5 P.M. since August 1989.

We appreciate the disclosure by TV Channel 4. The library will now be required to post identification of all groups using the meeting room, and the time and date of their meetings. Now that we know about these meetings, it will be our fault if we allow their continuance. Keep watch!

If there is another meeting scheduled by this group or any similar group, let's all attend with cameras in hand, and crowd these chicken hawks out of the meeting and off the hill. Better still, back under their rocks, out of town.

We must protect our children from these criminals.

Babette Drefke, Wendy Shinbori, Lynn M. Peterson, Don Kambic, Arlene Chew Wong, Dut S. Wong, Mary Friedland, Bud Peterson, Inez Brasesco, Ellen Kernaghan, Edythe Ansel, Elena Meyers, Estrella Bryant, R.H. Sustarich, Stella Scott



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LIBRARY NEWS
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Wednesday 1 - 8 pm
Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 1 - 6 pm



TEN YEARS AGO
In The View

VIEW SAID "SAFEGUARDS IGNORED"
Work had finally begun on the demolition of the old paint factory and Synanon facility at 23rd and Kansas Streets, the January, 1982 **VIEW** reported. (The Potrero Court apartments now occupy the site.) But neighborhood fears about the spread of toxic residues from the manufacture of paint at the site (lead, zinc and asbestos) were causing concern. In response to the concern the City Planning Commission issued an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that called for such measures as constant spraying of water and hauling of debris only at off-peak traffic hours. The **View**, in headlining the story "Safeguards Ignored," quoted the demolition contractor as saying "he had seen the EIR and that no toxic substances were in the buildings to be torn down, therefore special safety measures were not necessary." However, he went on to say that he was aware of "the dangers of chemicals found on the site and said he fully intends to remove the substances without creating a hazard to the area."

"RENT STRIKE GETS NOD"
"A five-month rent strike at the Potrero Housing Projects has been granted official recognition by the San Francisco Public Housing Commission," the **VIEW** noted in a Page One story. The strike was called by the Public Housing Tenants Association (PHITA) after hearing tenants' complaints of neglect and mismanagement by housing officials. Recognition of the strike by the Commission permitted the tenants to deposit their rent payments into an escrow account pending remedy of the complaints.

CENTRAL WATERFRONT PLANNING IS NEWS AGAIN
The Potrero Hill Central Waterfront Committee (PHCWC) met at the Hill library to hear a detailed report on the status planning and development along the City's waterfront from Market Street to India Basin. City Planner Dean Macris and staff member Bob Reeves emphasized that what they were showing "did not indicate what will be, but what might be" in the year 2000. Early possibilities for Southern Pacific's Mission Bay development were among the ideas presented. The meeting was chaired by Joel Lance.

WISCONSIN SITE HEARINGS FEB. 11
A proposal to develop the site of the former Wisconsin Street project on the south slope of the Hill was scheduled to be heard. The result? Parkview Heights.

SUPERBOWL JOURNAL
Intrepid Potrero View staffers, Editor Ruth Passen and Judy Baston, both old faithful 49er fans, reported on their trek to Pontiac, Michigan, to watch their team in their first-ever Superbowl appearance and win, January 24, 1982. It must have been the rigors of the trip (they finally had to abandon the airlines and take a train from New York to Detroit, making it just in time) and excitement that caused them to stumble in their reportorial task. It's only late in the story that they identify the 49ers' opponents, and this in passing, mentioning "Bengal fans" one time, and the date of the game appears only on a photo of the Superbowl XVI badge, and the score? Incidentally, was there a Superbowl this year (1992)? Did anyone win? Just asking.

AND FINALLY, SOME ITEMS BRIEFLY
Then-Assemblyman Art Agnos denounced State Senator John Schmitz as "an un-American obscenity" for homophobic and anti-Semitic remarks ... The Public Utilities Commission held the first of a series of hearings on Muni fare hikes (from 60 cents to 75 cents for regular fares, etc.) ... A Feb. 27 date was set for the installation of Margo Bors' mural in the Potrero Branch Library ... Hill artist Walter May won a second place and an honorable mention for two stained glass panels entered in competition at the Stained Glass Shop on 17th Street ... The Julian Theatre, resident company at the Nabe then, was nominated for a number of awards by the fourth annual Bay Area Critics Circle Awards to be given in March, 1982 ... and an ad for San Francisco's Deferred Payment Loan Program geared towards low and moderate income homeowners to correct health and safety code deficiencies — "Deferred Loans 3%" (sigh).

— Vas Arnautoff

February is African-American History month and the Potrero Branch will celebrate with a program for all ages on Saturday, Feb. 15. Storyteller Carol Alexander will appear at 3 p.m., followed by the Providence Male Chorus at about 3:45 p.m. Plan to attend this exciting event.

FILMS: "Pierre," "Dragon Stew," and "Harold and the Purple Crayon" will be shown Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. for ages 3-5. And for our Family Film Night on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m., we will present "Blue Dashiki" and "Really Rosie."

LAPSIT: With the return of Branch Librarian Debby Jeffery by the middle of February, the lapsit programs will start again. Please call the library for date and time.

BILL OF RIGHTS: Did you miss out on the '91 Bicentennial celebration of our Bill of Rights? Well, it's still not too late to check out these titles at your neighborhood Potrero Branch: "In Our Defense: the Bill of Rights in Action" by Ellen Alderman and Caroline

Kennedy; "Visions of Liberty: the Bill of Rights for all Americans" by Ira Glaser and Bob Adelman; "The First Freedom: the Tumultuous History of Free Speech in America" by Nat Hentoff; Harry Kalven's "A Worthy Tradition: Freedom of Speech in America;" and "How Free are We? What the Constitution Says We Can and Cannot Do" by John Sexton and Nat Brandt.

MUNI - BART Tix at NABE

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays, during office hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior Muni	\$4.50
Youth Muni	\$5.00
Senior BART	\$1.60

For more information
- call 826-8080

Black History Month Program
Slated February 16 at Nabe

Black History Month will be celebrated at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House with a "Youth Salutes" program, Sunday, Feb. 16 at 3 p.m.

Presented by the young people who are involved in programs at the Nabe, the event will consist of a short skit, dancing, fashion show, poetry readings and singing.

Additional entertainment will be performed by Finesse and Gingia Brasil (samba-da-Roda).

Donation at the door is \$1, and refreshments will be available. For more information call 826-8080. The Neighborhood House is located at 953 De Haro St.



Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street • San Francisco, California • (415) 826-8080

Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Youth Council Meetings - Wed., 6 p.m.
Girls Club Meetings - Mon., 5-7 p.m.
Omega Boys Club Meetings - 1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
Every Tues., 7:30 p.m.
Tues., 5-7 p.m.

Study Hall
Juvenile Diversion
Tutorial Program
Job Referral
Al-Anon - Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Alcohol Anonymous - Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8:30 p.m.
Cocaine Anonymous - Sat., 6-7 p.m.

Social Development Center: For developmentally disabled adults. Basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer and health education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, leisure time use, group and individual counseling.
Senior Citizens Program: Hot lunches every weekday (at small cost). Activities include - bingo games, information and referral, counseling, social hour, games and recreation.
Classes: Photography, Arts & Crafts.
Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre (cost, \$5-7 per performance).

Facilities:

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A DAY AT THE OPERA



Children from the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House were treated to a performance of "The Nutcracker Ballet" in December, thanks in part to the efforts of Hill neighbor Aida Anderson (back row, left), and Marian Lucchessi (not in photo). Also attending the mid-week matinee show were clients of the Developmentally Disabled Center, a program of the Nabe.

Ruth Passen photo



THE FIRST QUESTION HE'D ASK WAS "HOW DO YOU FEEL?"

Former Hill Doctor George Roth Mourned

By Ruth Passen

One-time Potrero Hill physician Dr. George Roth — a personal friend to many in this area — died at his Mill Valley home December 21 following a lengthy illness.

Roth, 67, opened his private practice on 20th Street in the 1960s soon after he graduated from the University of St. Louis School of Medicine. He became the doctor of choice for many members of the Int'l. Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union after the premature death of his good friend and fellow physician Asher Gordon, who had been associated with the union.

"George Roth was really a wonderful man," said Hill resident and former ILWU President Jim Herman. "He paid unusual attention to patients, and gave very special services and treatment. He was one of the most ethical people I ever met."

In the mid-60s he was active in a community effort with other local activists to open a mental health treatment center on the Hill, and a health center was finally established. "There had been no dental services here before," said Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Executive Director Enola D. Maxwell, "but with Dr. Roth's help the San Francisco General

Hospital opened a satellite comprehensive health center. He was a doctor of the old school — a real family doctor. The first question he'd ask was 'how do you feel?' instead of 'how are you going to pay?' He is irreplaceable."

Roth was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pa. He was a talented musician and attended the Juillard School of Music in New York. His plans to be a concert violinist changed when he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Force in 1942.

Acclaimed by his friends as an excellent musician, Roth continued to play his violin and concentrate on music throughout his life, becoming conductor of the San Francisco Doctor's Symphony. The group performed at what Roth — with his well known sense of humor — called "chutzpah concerts" twice a year with the San Francisco Medical Society.

"During the early Vietnam War years, Dr. Roth spoke out passionately against the war and provided medical deferments for various young men whenever possible," remembers Atchison's Pharmacy owner and former Roth patient Clifford Wong. "One of those men was a student teacher, but, because of Roth later returned to school to become a medical doctor." That doctor worked for a short period of time in the 1980s at the Wisconsin Street clinic that Roth helped found in the 1960s.

Roth served aboard the Project Hope hospital ship, travelling to Ecuador in 1964 and to West Africa the following year. He belonged to an international

physicians group that brought war-injured Vietnamese children to the United States for medical care. He personally visited primitive burn units in rural hospitals in South Vietnam to find children who could be helped, and dogged the bureaucratic paperwork until he finally escorted several children back to the States.

During his medical career in San Francisco he served as a clinical instructor at the University of California, yet did not hold the title of professor because he refused to sign a required loyalty oath. He also served in other medical positions throughout the Bay Area, including those with the Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Dept. of Social Service Disability of Oakland and Mount Zion, San Francisco and French Hospitals.

When Roth left his practice on Potrero Hill in 1978 he was retained as a general practitioner at Kaiser Hospital both in San Francisco and in San Rafael until ill health forced him to retire in 1988.

He is survived by wife Ann, son Joshua, brother David, and cousin Lew Goldhammer.



Dr. George Roth
Bob Hayes photo



New Film on Life Of ILWU's Bridges

A group of retired waterfront workers on Potrero Hill was invited to preview a documentary film on the life of legendary longshoremen's leader Harry Bridges January 13 at the Wisconsin Street home of the film's co-producer Berry Minott. Minott's partner in the project is John Knoop.

The one-hour film, hopefully to be shown on PBS television later this year, traces the life of Bridges through archival film, still photos and interviews with those who knew him well at various stages in his colorful career. For 43 years, until he retired in 1977, Bridges led the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union (ILWU). He died in 1990 at 89.

Invited to view the film and discuss its content with Minott, her editor Veronica Selver, and the film's writer Jim Hamilton (himself a recently retired longshoreman) were Allen Ohtu, Steve Parun and Vos Arnautoff of Potrero Hill, and Sid Roger of Mill Valley, former editor of "The Dispatcher," the official newspaper of the ILWU.

Picket Protests Unpaid Wages at Trixie's

By Judy Baston

Former employees of Trixie's Restaurant and Piano Bar at 16th and Utah Streets have been picketing on weekends since Jan. 11 and urging a boycott of the establishment to underscore their charge that owner Patrick Kavanaugh owes them some \$20,000 in unpaid wages.

Trixie's opened June 19, 1991, and, says former waitress Joanna Walner, "paychecks from Trixie's bounced from July 1 on." And a number of those bounced paychecks "contained deduction: for medical insurance," said former employee Joseph Caro, who had noted the deductions, but added that Kavanaugh had later denied that insurance coverage had been provided.

A dozen former Trixie's employees filed claims with the State Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, which were not disputed by Kavanaugh.

On Dec. 4, Kavanaugh and Della Ann

Taylor, partners in Trixie's according to the San Francisco License Board, filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

And a Jan. 8 memo from Deputy Labor Commissioner Gonzalo Rucobo informed the former employees that the Division had "filed your wage claim with the Federal Bankruptcy Court...if and when any funds are disbursed by the Trustee in Bankruptcy, we will forward any such funds to you." The former employees are listed among some 100 creditors of Trixie's in the bankruptcy proceedings.

In a prepared press statement, Kavanaugh called the charges "unfounded and false," and referred inquiries to his bankruptcy attorney, Jay Rothstein.

Although apparently unfamiliar with specific employee charges, Rothstein indicated that filing Chapter 11 — reorganization — unlike Chapter 7 — liquidation — implies "the intent to pay all creditors. All employees will get paid 100 percent. We have not worked out a payment plan. I hope to do so within 30 days."

A Chapter 11 filing can move to Chapter 7, and if it does so, the ability and intent to pay changes, and creditors are ranked for tax purposes.

If checks kept bouncing and promised cash was continually unforthcoming, why did these former employees keep working at Trixie's for months before they took action?

For some, the answer is strictly — and starkly — financial. A number of workers say they were lured by Kava-

naugh from bar and restaurant jobs at such Potrero Hill spots as the Connecticut Yankee, Bloom's and Moshi Moshi, and their former jobs were subsequently filled. So they continued at Trixie's in the vain hope of getting any money at all to pay their debts. (Some subsisted solely on tips.)

One was Linda Zavadel, who formerly worked a five-evening-per-week shift at the Connecticut Yankee, and told *The View* that Kavanaugh simply "made me an offer I couldn't refuse" — health and dental coverage plus \$100 a shift. And as the promises remained unfulfilled, she fell two-and-a-half months behind in her rent, she said, and finally sued Kavanaugh in Small Claims Court, where she was awarded a settlement of \$3,843 plus \$38, none of which she has received.

(She is now back working two shifts a week at the Connecticut Yankee, but noted she is "still behind on her rent and probably would be out on the street except for a really good landlord.")

And although Walner charged that Kavanaugh "tried to divide and conquer us from the very beginning, it still appears that some former Trixie's employees may have been so enthusiastic about their vision for the establishment that they failed to recognize the different economic interests of employers and employees, especially in difficult economic times.

"We had hoped to bring together all the newly diversified elements of Potrero Hill society from blue collar workers to yuppies and guppies," Walner said, "but our vision for gentrification has failed and we are out \$20,000."



Former Trixie's employees — along with their supporters — mount a weekend picket line in front of the 16th Street establishment.
Judy Baston photo

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Library Debate Spotlights Key Free Speech Questions

(Continued from Page 1)

ium would disrupt or interfere with general use of the library, officials "could respond by imposing reasonable time, place or manner restrictions on access to the auditorium, provided that regulations were justified without reference to the content of the regulated speech," the court ruled.

The U.S. Constitution, with the Amendments that have become part of it, is frequently called "a living document." This means it is constantly subject to interpretation — and re-interpretation — by the courts.

Certain interpretations are well known: For example, that shouting "fire" in a crowded theater if in fact there is no fire is not "protected" speech under the First Amendment.

NEWS ANALYSIS

And it is safe to say that most in the judicial and legal community now agree that general advocacy — for example someone saying Henry David Thoreau had "a good idea when he wrote about civil disobedience" — is protected by the First Amendment, but specific advocacy of an illegal act — someone saying "I know the route of the Presidential motorcade and here's where you can get some bombs" — is not protected.

In addition, even though certain forms of expression (frequently those generally deemed "obscenity") are protected by the First Amendment when it comes to adults, a majority of the U.S. Suoreme Court ruled in the 1968 case, *Ginsberg v. New York*, that a State does have the Constitutional power to exercise its interest "in the well-being of youth."

(Justice William O. Douglas dissented from that opinion, warning that "it is one thing for parents and religious or-

ganizations to be active and involved" in trying to protect children from allegedly harmful material, but "it is quite a different matter for the State to become implicated as a censor.")

The discussion about NAMBLA's right to use a library meeting room provided a textbook sample of the legal balancing act between First Amendment guarantees and the Supreme Court's ruling in the *Ginsberg* case — perhaps because it is not only the speech of NAMBLA members that was called into question, but their very right to assemble in proximity to children.

On the one hand, Burk Delventhal of the City Attorney's Office said at the Jan. 21 meeting of the Library Commission's Finance and Operations Committee that his office "views the library as an agency that can prohibit organizations who attract individuals who demonstrate a proclivity to engage in violation of laws of the type that would undermine the purposes set aside for the library."

But many constitutional law specialists question the application of such a prohibition to a group. "Someone would have to show a clear danger that individuals, by using the library, would do something illegal," noted Attorney Karl Olson. And Attorney Al Boro, brought into the situation by a concerned Potrero Hill parent, indicated that "checking the arrest record of applicants to use the library is inappropriate."

NAMBLA's own liturature defines its members as those who have sex with young people, and the group advocates changing the law to lower — or entirely eliminate — the age of consent. And the San Francisco Police Dept. has charged that among NAMBLA members are those who have been convicted of child molestation. But what does this show about whether or not their past meetings in the library were legal — and protected by the First Amendment?

The fact is that nobody has been able



"If this group is teaching people how to molest and get away with it, it's against the law," Joyce Armstrong (right) told the heated Jan. 15 library session. *Judy Baston photo*

to say what went on during the more than two years the group was meeting in the Potrero Library's upstairs room. Although the content of those meetings has been the subject of considerable speculation, no evidence has been presented that legal activity (simply advocating changing the law) or illegal activity (exchanging child pornography or arranging sexual liaisons with children) took place.

What about the police? During the more than two years that NAMBLA was meeting at the library, were they able to discover whether illegal activity had been taking place at the meeting?

On one hand, Juvenile Division Inspector Tom Eisenmann told a Hill gathering Jan. 15 that "People don't molest kids at this library. Librarians shouldn't police them. We police them, and we do a hell of a job. We get most of them to plead guilty."

But the Juvenile Division's Inspector Pat White told *The View* that at least for the past year, a new city order regarding procedures for police intelligence-gathering has made it more difficult to send an undercover officer into a group to find out what was being discussed.

The ordinance, noted John Crew of the ACLU, was agreed to by the Police Dept. and Police Commission after numerous public hearings and after complaints that the police had been infiltrating and gathering information on peaceful and lawful groups. It requires the suspicion of "unlawful acts reasonably expected to result in death, serious bodily injury or serious property damage" and authorization at various Police Dept. levels before undercover surveillance of a group can take place.



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Seeking a Neighborhood Bookstore? Now There Are Two

By Vas Arnautoff

After a number of years without a bookstore from the time the ill-fated Radha's Books disappeared from the northwest corner of 18th and Connecticut Streets — Potrero Hill once again has amenities for browsing bibliophiles.

Not one, but two book stores have in recent months been established here — Christopher's Books at 18th and Missouri Streets and Builders Booksource at 16th and Dellaro.

And the happy circumstance is that they are not head-butting competitors vying for the same customers. There are similarities — both are family operations begun by young men whose lives changed direction, for example — Christopher's is a general interest shop whereas the Booksource caters primarily to the building trade, from the casual do-it-yourselfers to the professional contractors and architects.

CHRISTOPHER'S BOOKS

When Chris Ellison spent all of 1985 recovering from an auto accident, he did a lot of thinking about the direction he wanted his life to go. An investment banker with DFC Ventures, he had been posted from his native New Zealand to the San Francisco office in 1982. Then the accident, discussions with his school-teacher wife MaryAnn, and the decision.

As Hill residents, they recognized that the neighborhood lacked a book-

store and they could do something about it.

Planning and finding a site took a while, but finally Christopher's Books opened last July 26. The response, says Ellison, has been great. "It proves to me that the Hill wants and needs a bookstore," he says.

The intention of the owners is to create "a broad general bookstore so anyone can find whatever he's interested in." And if the book is not on their shelves they'll order it through their computer link-up. (It took less than a week for this reporter to get a copy of an obscure book only recently reprinted.)

The shop at 1400-18th St. has the comfortable air of a neighborhood fixture that's been around for years. Reinforcing this air are large photos from the Potrero Hill Archives Project on the walls (copies of which are for sale). Also currently decorating the walls are paintings by Michael Minthorn, an Ellison friend.

Further emphasizing their Potrero Hill ties, the EBisons make a point of carrying books by all the community's authors. So, you'll find the work of View cartoonist Larry Gonick, as well as Mark Reisner and Ward Shumaker. Other writers with connections to Potrero Hill — Margaret Fring Keys, Ronnie Davis, Jerry Mander, Joe Kane, Blair Fuller and Joel Selvin — are represented here, too.

Children have their own corner at Christopher's Books, with tot-sized chairs



Chris Ellison with two favorite books in his 18th Street bookstore.

to accommodate young readers.

Not yet sufficiently established to use hired help, the Ellison venture is strictly a family affair. Though daughter Claire at age 21 months is not yet ready to help out, son Mathew, 15, spells his parents when he can.

Christopher's Books is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

BUILDERS BOOKSOURCE

At the bottom of the Hill is the newer book store, as different from its neighbor up the Hill as a glitzy, hi-tech ski boot is to a comfortable old shoe.

Builders Booksource, which opened last October at 300 De Haro St., is the creation of a young East Bay couple, George and Sally Kiskaddon, who parlayed a need for information on remodeling and an inheritance into a flourishing business.

In the late 1970s the Kiskaddons found themselves the owners of an old Point Richmond house that needed a lot of work. Dashing here and there for information and advice on construction methods, building codes, design possibilities, supply sources and the like, they bemoaned that there wasn't a source that offered all the information in one place. So, when George received an inheritance from his father they decided to supply that need. That original Builders Booksource in Berkeley opened in 1981.

"Not the best of years for starting a business," laughs Sally who recalls a tough struggle to stay afloat the first two years in that period of recession. "But it was exciting," she says, meeting and working with builders and designers.

In the 10 years since, the success of the Berkeley enterprise persuaded them that

San Francisco could support a similar store and the local Builders Booksource was born.

Designed by architects Keith Wilson and Jessica Seaton, the colorful store is managed by Andrew Lee. Its location was determined largely by price and availability but its proximity to the Showplace/Galleria complex and the San Francisco campus of the California College of Arts and Crafts were definite pluses, says Lee.

Here the browser can find everything from the Time/Life and Sunset how-to-do-it books to handsome coffee table volumes displaying the latest in architecture. There are sections devoted to the business and legal aspects of building, architectural theory, engineering, urban planning and the like.

And being parents of children aged 11 months and four years, the Kiskaddons have not forgotten the child as budding builder or designer. In the young peoples' section are books on kite building, paper airplanes, items obviously chosen to stimulate the creative urge in young minds.

The young owners divide their time between the two stores now, and even though they have full-time employees they are very much hands-on proprietors.

Builders Booksource is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.



George, Sally and Claire Kiskaddon pose in new building trades bookstore on De Haro Street. Vas Arnautoff photos

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TAX-AID, a non-profit volunteer tax assistance program, offers free help in preparing state and federal tax returns for low-income persons Mondays, (beginning Feb. 24) 6 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. The program, now in its fifth year, relies on mainly San Francisco accountants and attorneys as volunteers. Call 415-434-5533 for more info.

The Potrero Hill Garden Club is in full swing, with more than 40 members, and looking for a place to hold regular meetings. For more info call Mia, 285-6807.

Plans for a new development at Texas and Mariposa Streets will be the subject of discussion at a combined PLAN and Boosters' community meeting Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., 7:30 p.m. A public hearing before the Planning Commission takes place Feb. 13. Also before the Planning Commission on that date is the development slated for 701 Minnesota St. Set to be built in the brick warehouse are 54 condos plus four live/work spaces.

The Cartoon Art Museum presents a February exhibit of original work by African American cartoonists in their show, "Black Ink." Panel discussions with artists Morrie Turner, Michael Davis, Shep Hendrix and Charles Bell take place Feb. 27, from 6:30 - 9 p.m. The Museum is located at 665 Third St.

Daniel Mangin's "Psycho Killers and Twisted Sisters," a clip/commentary presentation on Lesbian/Gay stereotypes show at the Roxie Cinema, 3117-16th St. Feb. 29, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. The show is a benefit for the Frameline Film/Video Completion Fund. Call 863-1087 for more info.

The U.C. San Francisco Cancer Referral Service at 1-800-888-8664 gives friends or relatives of people diagnosed with cancer a chance to get up to date information on the disease in its various forms and what treatment is available. Callers can also get information about cancer support services and patient education programs offered through UCSF and its affiliated hospitals.



Hill resident and Omega Boys and Girls member Shervon Hunter was named Women's Player of the Week January 22 by the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. Hunter recorded 37 points, 25 rebounds, four steals and three blocked shots in a 3-0 week for the Lady Hornets of Delaware State College. This marked the second time in the year that Hunter received the player award.

Seniors over the age of 60 who are interested in furthering their education and social contacts are being invited to join 60 Plus of San Francisco State University. For a fee of \$25, members will have the opportunity to attend classes, tours and more through August 31. More information at 338-2127.

A free 24-hour phone helpline is available to assist smokers who want to kick their habit. The Quitline, 555-9999, guarantees all callers a personal consultation within one working day. It is headed by Martin Zapata, a smoking cessation specialist with the City's Department of Public Health and its Tobacco Free Project. Additional information about the project is available at 554-9153.

The San Francisco Medical Society warns that routine listening to personal cassette players at high volume can cause hearing loss. In their publication FYI Medical they state that "extended noise exposure over 85 decibels puts hearing at risk. These noises include the sound of lawnmowers, chain saws, rock concerts, jackhammers and firearms (in ascending order)."

The Rose Resnick Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired needs volunteers to read to blind clients in their homes and to help them in other ways. For information on volunteering and to learn more about available services for the visually impaired, call 441-1980.

The distinctive designs of noted Exciting Lighting designer Pam Morris are being shown at the Chapson Artsvision showroom, Showplace Design Center Suite 489, through Feb. 21. Morris has created unique lighting fixtures for such restaurants as Postrio, Splendido's, Il Fornaio, and Wolfgang Puck's newest, Granita in Malibu. The showroom is open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Israelis Today: Dreams and Reality," an exhibition of photographs and interviews by Berkeley photographer Raisa Fastman, offers an in-depth look at the diverse lives and views of Jews and Arabs from all walks of life in contemporary Israel. The exhibition is at the Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission St. through Feb. 15, and consists of 60 black and white photos and accompanying interviews. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon - 5 p.m. Free admission.

The Eye Gallery also is calling for entries for its sixth annual juried competition, "Selections 92." Entry deadline is March 22 for the April 1 exhibition opening date. Submissions must be of original photographic work with no size limit. Further details on entering are available through Julie Nora at 431-6911.

The Feb. 3 premiere of KQED's Nightly Talk Show "Q" features Mickey Hart, Doug McHenry (producer of "New Jack City"), and stand up comic Margaret Cho, 11 p.m.

Because of the need for the San Francisco Library to curtail services that aren't basic library services, State of California and Federal tax forms will no longer be distributed at its branches. Federal tax forms are distributed at the IRS Tax Assistance Office, 450 Golden Gate, Room 1002, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by mail by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM. State tax forms are distributed at the Franchise Tax Board, 345 Larkin St., Room 1241, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by calling 1-800-852-5711.

Among the upcoming events at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., are: Joe Goode Performance Group, Feb. 13-23 at 8:30 p.m.; Della Davidson Dance Company, March 10-15 at 8:30 p.m.; Black Chorographers Moving — a Symposium, March 19 at 7 p.m. More information at 621-7641.

A forum addressing the issues of women combating discrimination will be presented by the San Francisco chapter of the Older Women's League on Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Student Union at San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Drive. Keynote speaker is Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. Admission is \$15 - \$25, sliding scale, and \$5 for students. Free parking. Details at 550-1660.

Throughout the month of February the SF/SPCA will offer another low-cost vaccination clinic for San Francisco dog and cat owners on limited incomes. Each inoculation is just \$2. Call the SF/SPCA Animal Hospital at 554-3030 for more information.

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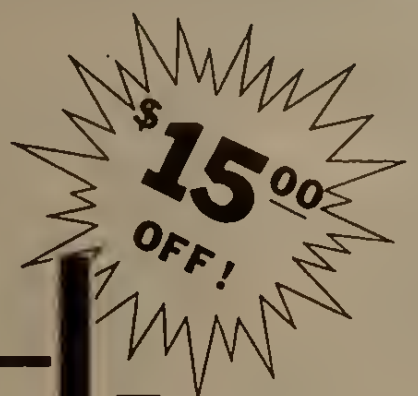
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New Challenges For Hill's Richard Seyd As ACT's Associate Artistic Director

By Winifred Mann

San Francisco has been very, very good to me," declared Dellaro Street's Richard Seyd during a recent conversation about his appointment as Associate Artistic Director to Carey Perloff, newly named Artistic Director of the American Conservatory Theatre, (ACT).

Seyd was describing the many theatrical opportunities given him in the 16 years he has lived in San Francisco (the last 14 on Potrero Hill), since emigrating from his native England. He spoke with intensity of what he sees as a debt he owes the community.

FOUR WOMEN



"Four Women," a theatrical production about famous black women, will be presented at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre on the weekends of Feb. 21 and 22, 28 and 29, at 8 p.m. Becca Sauls, (above), with an impressive background in theatre as performer and director, relates the stories of four women — Lorraine Hansberry, Zora Neal Hurston, Billie Holiday and Winnie Mandela — in this one-woman production. Admission is by donation. Call 826-8080 for more information.

"It enabled me to develop as an artist, as I don't think I could have done anywhere else...to earn a living — from my teaching as well...but most particularly," he added, his voice dropping, "for the extraordinary outpouring of support when Sigrid was sick (actress Sigrid Wurschmidt, Seyd's wife and colleague whose untimely death in April, 1990, was mourned by the community) "That outpouring was truly magical for us," Seyd said.

And so, when Carey Perloff invited him to join her as Associate, the opportunity of "closing the circle" became an important factor in his acceptance.

"If I can be a part of getting ACT back into the Geary Theatre (still unrepaired and unusable after suffering severe damage in the '89 earthquake) and re-establishing it as the major classical theater company on the West Coast of America, then I feel I will have put back into the community some of what I was given from it," he noted.

Seyd met Perloff quite by chance, many months before she was even approached by ACT. He had been engaged to direct "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" for the Berkeley Repertory Theater in the fall of 1990, (his first project, after taking six months completely off work following Sigrid's death,) and was in New York briefly on a casting mission. The two were introduced by the casting director who served both Berkeley Repertory Theater and Perloff's highly respected Classic Stage Company (C.S.C.), just then seeking a director, as it happened, for Moliere's "Learned Ladies."

Although Perloff and Seyd had never met, she had seen the Eureka production of "The Wash" by Phillip Gotanda, directed by Seyd, and liked his work. Sounding each other out, they found their artistic ideas as well as style of work to be thoroughly compatible. And so, after his successful launching of "Virginia Woolf" in Berkeley, Seyd headed back to New York to direct "The Learned Ladies" at C.S.C., with actress Jean Stapleton.

In the meantime, he had been extremely gratified by an invitation from the California Shakespeare Festival (formerly

and affectionately known as Berkeley Shakes) to direct "Midsummer Night's Dream", as the opening play of the first season at their new space in Orinda.

And at some point in this crowded schedule, Seyd took a detour to the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles to direct a play for their New Plays Series.

And finally, I should add that last month at Marin Theatre Company I attended a preview of Seyd's delightful revival of Garson Kanin's "Born Yesterday" — a bit creaky after 45 years but still wickedly on target. Themes of corruption and greed in the nation's capital never seem to grow dated. The show features a splendid cast including another Potrero Hill neighbor, Maureen McVerry, in the leading role. Performances continue through February 16.

To have mounted this many plays in little more than a year would exhaust any normal person and earn him a serious vacation. Yet here is Richard Seyd, already deep into his next — and probably most demanding project. He is already immersed in planning, organizing, surveying and marshalling of resources — yet here he sits, cool, collected, clear-eyed and confident.

Seyd verifies this impression, explaining how he has changed. Before Sigrid's illness, he recalls, he worried a great deal about his career, the passage of time and unrealized goals. He was "manic and urgent" then. But when her illness struck, all of that vanished; all the "goal-oriented" striving, pushing; the tension and strain simply dropped away.

"I have a very strong voice inside me — from Sigrid," he added softly, "... very powerful...Anytime I get a bit off-center, out of whack, I have this voice that just sort of pulls me back into a much more even place." Without this sort of ener-



Richard Seyd

Christine Taccone photo

gized serenity Seyd doesn't believe he could have tackled the job at ACT.

What, then, can we expect from this new breed of leadership at ACT? One thing is certain. Although Perloff and Seyd are starting with a two year plan, it will surely take longer to raise the money and to renovate the Geary. And the Geary Theatre seems of primary importance to the vision they share, which is away from the "psychological realism" that flourishes in smaller spaces.

What they intend to offer for the first two years is "to explore and investigate the classics of world dramatic literature (not just Western) in a way that will reach and touch people and establish ACT as a Theater rooted in the classics.



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Steve Zee and Bill Duffy, two hardworking local talents, combine skills to create a funny, upbeat theatre going experience in "Rhythm and Dance" at the New Performance Gallery, 3153-17th St., Feb. 6 to 23. Showtime is 8 p.m. Thurs.-Sat., and 2 p.m. on Sun. Tickets are \$15. Call 863-9834 for more information.

Documentary Set for Feb. 17 Takes A Hard Look at Homelessness

By Julia Jaurigui

If the only inconvenience you experienced during the recent cold snap was getting up to adjust the thermostat or to turn up the dial of an electric blanket, consider yourself very fortunate. Not quite so lucky are the many homeless men, women, and children who live on the streets and appear in Jerry Jones' "Homeless Not Helpless: Opening Doors," a documentary that takes a long hard look at Bay Area homelessness from the point of view of the homeless.

Narrated by former civil rights leader and Georgia public official Julian Bond, this compelling documentary explores the various homelessness programs in the Bay Area, the many reasons why people become homeless, and the ways in which courageous homeless-activists are waging a war for dignity and survival in a post-Reagan America. "Homeless Not Helpless" has its broadcast premiere Monday, Feb. 17 at 10 p.m. on KQED's ongoing "Viewpoints" series.

Also included in the series is Denis Mueller and Deb Ellis' fascinating in-your-face documentary "FBI's War on Black America." This fast-paced, informative, and often frightening investigation of the FBI's ruthless campaign to discredit black nationalist groups and leaders during the civil rights movement is likely to rattle even the most sedate viewer.

Using archival footage of Malcolm X, Fred Hampton, Kwame Toure (Stokely Carmichael), Martin Luther King, and many others, Mueller and Ellis have created a raw and often chilling portrait of the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) and its aggressive attempts to intimidate and repress African-Americans during the 1960s. "FBI's War on Black America" airs on Monday, Feb. 10, at 10 p.m., also on KQED, Channel 9.



Members of the Oakland Union of the Homeless enter a HUD-owned abandoned in Oakland, in the film opening at the Roxie Cinema. John Jernegan photo

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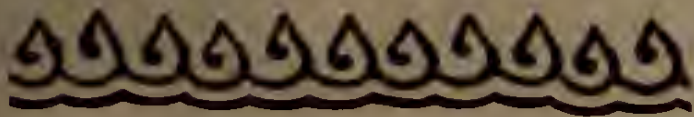
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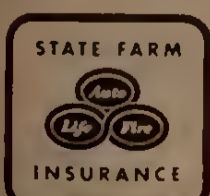
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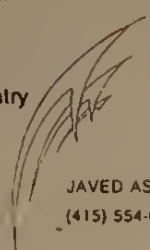
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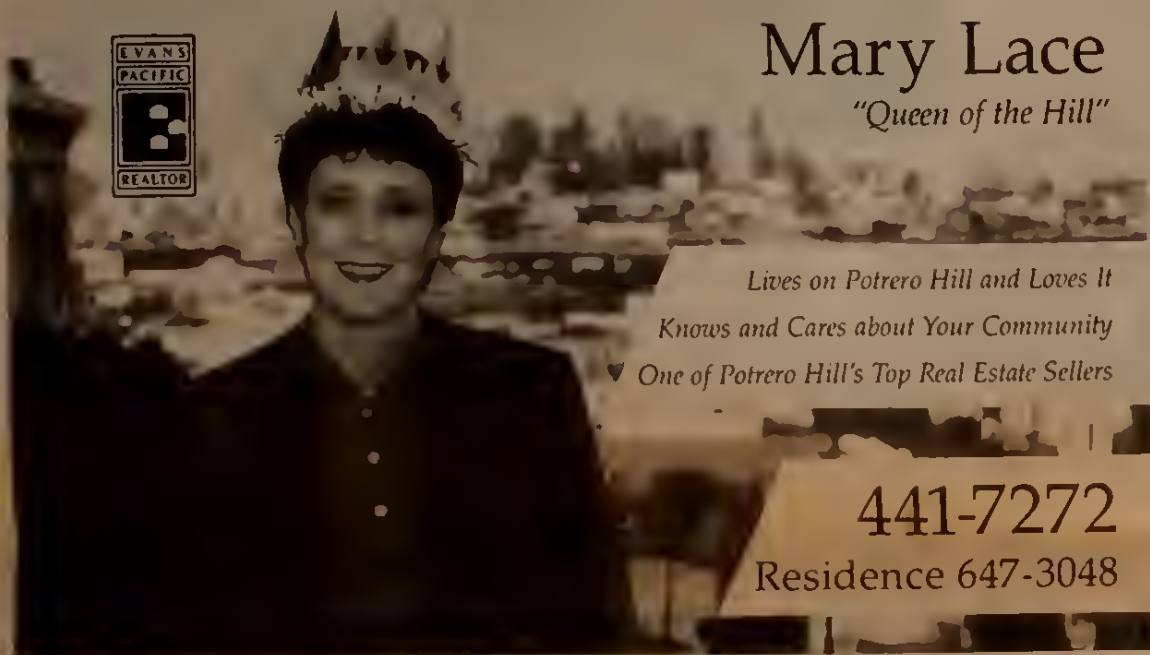
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reg. \$1.45 -Potrero Store only!

Curried Lentils & Rice
White Beans & Rice Italiano
Oriental Snow Peas & Rice
Caribbean Black Beans & Rice
Pinto Beans & Rice Mexicano
Cajun Red Beans & Rice

Fantastic Foods

For a healthy vegetarian lunch - just add hot water and enjoy! Packaged in recyclable paper

The GOOD LIFE GROCERY

1524 TWENTIETH ST. • 282-9204 • POTRERO HILL • SAN FRANCISCO
MON-SAT 9 AM-7:30 PM • SUNDAY 10 AM-6 PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY: Lena Armanino, Ellie Baines, Esther "Hon" Brown, Roberta Callahan, Marissa Dorr, Sheila Duffy, Ria Franks, Dan Gershater, Nathaniel Irons, Julia Jaurigui, Johanna Johnston, Pauline Jurich, Rick OreBano, Karen Pierce, Richard Reineccius, John Ruymaker, Charles Sabella, Dave Sarvis, James Wheeldon.